

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests that the foregoing amendments be entered prior to substantive examination of the application. These changes are submitted to place the application in better form for examination.

Applicant takes this opportunity to add independent claims 61, 65, 68 which are based on claims 1, 9 and 18 that have been canceled herein.

New claims 72 and 73 have been added. Claim 72 calls for a mower head including a deck having at least four sides including a front side and a boom arm to which the deck is mounted. The boom arm is positioned adjacent a first side edge of the mower head. A guard assembly has a hinge extending at an angle between the front side and an adjacent one of the sides of the deck. A guard is pivotally attached to the deck via the hinge. The guard is positioned adjacent a second side edge of the mower head located opposite the first side edge.

Referring to the patent application specification, in particular Figure 6, a boom arm is shown to which deck 50 is mounted. The boom arm is positioned adjacent a first side edge of the deck 50. A guard 84 is pivotally attached to the deck by hinge 110 extending at an angle between the front side and an adjacent one of the sides of the deck. The guard is positioned adjacent a second side edge of the mower head opposite the first side edge.

Thus, claim 72 is fully supported by the specification as filed and no new matter has been added.

Claim 73 calls for a mower head having a deck with four sides and at least one cutting blade rotatably mounted to the deck on an axis extending through the deck. The deck is disposed above and generally parallel to the blade. A guard

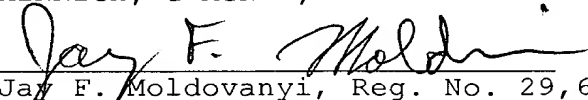
assembly has a guard pivotally attached to the deck by a hinge which extends between two adjacent ones of the four deck sides. The guard is positioned in a first corner of the deck and is selectively pivotable to a position above a plane of a deck. The deck has a second corner located adjacent the guard assembly which has two side walls which are rigid and non-moving. The first side of the deck includes both the first corner and the second corner.

Referring again to the patent application specification, in particular Figure 6, a mower head is shown having a deck 50 with four sides. The cutting blade 70 is rotatably mounted to the deck on an axis extending through the deck. The deck is disposed above and generally parallel to the blade. The guard 84 is pivotally attached to the deck by a hinge 110 which extends between two adjacent sides of the deck such that the guard is positioned at a first corner of a deck. The guard is selectively pivotable to a position above a plane of the deck. The deck has a second corner located adjacent the guard 84. The second corner has two side walls which are rigid and non-moving. The first side of the deck includes both the first and second corners.

It is respectfully submitted that claim 73 is fully supported by the specification as filed and that no new matter has been added.

Respectfully submitted,

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